

WHITEWATER REGION COUNCIL SUMMARY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 6th, 2025

Here is a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Council on **August 6, 2025**. Full agendas can be found here: <https://whitewaterregion.civicweb.net/Portal/>. The video is available on our YouTube page. This summary does not constitute the official record of the meeting and approved Minutes should be consulted for that purpose.

Mayor's Address

Since the last Council meeting on July 9, Mayor Nicholson attended 10 meetings and events on behalf of Council and thanked the Deputy Mayor for covering during his family holidays. Highlights included:

- Grand opening of *All Fried Up* in Cobden.
- Business relocations including *Sconed Bake Shop* and *Kula Wellness*.
- Attended the Beachburg Fair, Tour de Whitewater, and the Multicultural Festival.
- Participated in Tim Horton's Camp Day with Councillor Tabbert and Whitewater Firefighters, assisting at the Cobden Tim Hortons.
- Meeting with BEI and touring Phases 3 and 4 of the Wren Subdivision, where preparation is underway for 42 new homes in Cobden.
- Meeting with MP Gallant to discuss affordability issues related to property taxes and water/wastewater fees, the need for infrastructure funding, and strategies to grow commercial and agricultural business. The Mayor emphasized the importance of continued federal and provincial support to keep property taxes and cost of living affordable.

Presentation and Public Meetings

Council received a presentation from Leigh Sweeney, Executive Director of Bernadette McCann House, who outlined the vital services the organization provides to residents across Renfrew County. These services support both men and women and include transitional and financial supports, a 24-Hour Crisis Support Line, the Caring Dads program, child and youth outreach services, family court support, groups and workshops for women, and more.

A public meeting was held to receive information and comments from the public on four proposed applications to amend the Township of Whitewater Region's Zoning By-law, in accordance with the Planning Act. CAO Burson provided an overview of each of the following zoning amendment applications:

- Zoning Amendment - Ross Concession 4 East Part Lot 20, 1142 Magnesium Road
- Zoning Amendment - Ross Concession 1 West of Muskrat Lake Part Lot 3, 17962 Highway 17

- Zoning Amendment - Ross Concession 6 Part Lot 17, 2815 Queens Line
- Zoning Amendment - Westmeath Concession B East Muskrat Lake Part Lot, 177 Cemetery Road.

Contact: Ivan Burton, CAO
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Community Development

Council approved two zoning by-law amendments:

- 2815 Queens Line: to increase the maximum gross floor area of a home industry within an accessory structure (detached carpenter shed) from 100 square metres (1,076 sq. ft.) to 464.51 square metres (5,000 sq. ft.) for the purposes of operating a cabinet shop.
- Westmeath Concession B EML (Whitewater Amusements: to permit the sole additional use of an amusement park within the General Industrial (GM) Zone for a period of three years.

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Office of the CAO

CAO Burton and staff provided an overview on the Q2 quarterly update, highlighting a busy and productive season as the Township transitioned into spring and summer. Key activities included the issuance of 44 building permits valued at nearly \$10 million, 22 consent applications processed, delivery of over 900 Meals on Wheels, and close to 1,000 seniors engaged in local programs. Public Works completed major seasonal maintenance, including 243,000 litres of calcium for dust control and gravel resurfacing, while staff across departments managed flooding threats and a computer system outage with professionalism. Overall, the quarter demonstrated strong progress on infrastructure, community engagement, and Council’s strategic priorities. The full Q2 report can be found [here](#).

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Announcements

Members of Council announced the following:

- Councillor Tabbert highlighted the upcoming bake sale at the Ross Museum, the Cobden Fair, and the closing BBQ at the Ross Museum on August 23.
- Councillor Moore noted the Muskrat Watershed AGM scheduled for August 21.

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Additional information:

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